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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2472
INFO RUEHZO/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE
RUEH XD/MOSCOW POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI 0138
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 0147
RUEHDR/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 0049
RUEHSB/AMEMBASSY HARARE 0037
RUEH KI/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA 0075
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 1213
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 0304
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 2219
RUEHWD/AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK 0076

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 000693

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [ETRD](#) [ECON](#) [ASEC](#) [ZI](#) [RS](#)
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: MILITARY NOW IN CONTROL OF
ILLCIT DIAMOND ACTIVITY IN ZIMBABWE

REF: STATE 18545

Classified By: Acting Political M/C David Kostelancik for reasons 1.4 (b/d).

¶1. (C) We delivered reftel demarche on March 20 to MFA section chief for Zimbabwe Andrey Stolyarov, who said that Russia shared U.S. concerns over the illicit diamond trade in Zimbabwe and hoped that the new government in Harare would be able to effectively address the issue. He avoided addressing the argument that if military commanders, ZANU-PF members, and Mugabe himself, personally benefited from the illicit diamond trade, it seemed unlikely that they would let a government led by an opposition leader curtail their financial windfall. Stolyarov said that the GOR would wait until a Kimberly Process mission to Zimbabwe made its report before making further judgments on the situation.

¶2. (C) Stolyarov told us that the MFA was not aware of any improper contacts between Russian businesses and the Zimbabwean entities in control of the country's diamonds. He explained that the diamond industry was a "very sensitive" issue in Russia, and closely monitored by the Ministry of Finance. It was no secret that Harare had reached out to Alrosa, Russia's state-owned diamond monopoly, about working with the Zimbabwe diamond industry, but the current situation precluded any such consideration. Stolyarov explained that Alrosa, which had a great deal of experience in Africa and was currently working in Angola, was watching developments closely.
BEYRLE